



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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SUSANVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH PRODUCTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CRIMES INVOLVING AUSTRALIAN MINOR

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury brought an indictment against TROY WILLIAM NELSON, 30, of Susanville, Calif., charging him with sexual exploitation of a child in connection with his use of an Australian minor female to produce images of child pornography and possession of child pornography.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Reno, Nev. and the Queensland, Australia Police Service.

According to the criminal complaint affidavit, NELSON began an online relationship with an Australian female minor victim (FMV), when she was 15 years old. FMV stated that NELSON was aware of her age from the start. She said she met Nelson on “Kaneva,” an online chat site around November 2007. Eventually, their online relationship developed into an online sexual relationship where Nelson and FMV exchanged webcam images of a sexual nature.

On September 8, 2008, Nelson traveled to Australia to begin a live-in relationship with FMV, who was then 16 years old. On March 2, 2009, Nelson returned to the United States when his travel visa to Australia expired. Nelson was arrested upon his return to the Reno International Airport.

If convicted of these charges, Nelson faces a maximum of 40 years in prison, a lifetime term of supervised release, and a \$500,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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